

Fact Sheet

Why recycle electronics

- Electronic waste is a growing concern here and abroad. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. generates more electronic waste than any other nation with more than 3 million tons of it entering U.S. landfills annually.
- In the Northwest Washington counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King Pierce and Thurston, more than one million obsolete electronics will be generated in 2005.
 - About 44 percent of that, or 463,000 units, will be televisions.
 - The remaining 66 percent will be computer parts.
- The amount of electronic waste is only expected to increase in the future as the pace of technological advances quickens and electronics become obsolete more quickly.
- Each computer or television display contains an average of four to eight pounds of lead.
- The 315 million computers that became obsolete between 1997 and 2004 contain a total of more than 1.2 billion pounds of lead.
- Consumer electronics already constitute 40 percent of lead found in landfills.
- About 70 percent of the heavy metals, including mercury and cadmium, found in landfills comes from electronic equipment discards.

Good Guys TV recycling pilot program a resounding success

- During a recent month-long television recycling pilot program through Good Guys 4,042 televisions were turned in allowing for the safe disposal of more than 16,000 pounds of lead.
- The 4,042 TVs were collected through the Good Guys pilot program from July 8, 2004 through August 7, 2004 far exceeded the goal of 2,000 TVs. A breakdown of collections by store follows:
 - Lynnwood – 1,912
 - South Center – 981
 - Bellevue – 683
 - Puyallup – 466
- To date, 80 people have redeemed the 10 percent off coupon, a roughly two percent redemption rate, and the coupon is valid through August 21, 2004.

People can still recycle TV and old electronics through Office Depot

- People can still recycle their TVs under 27 inches and other old electronics for free through Labor Day at Office Depot.
- The Office Depot program is the first free, nationwide, in-store electronics recycling program in which customers can drop off any brand of unwanted electronics at any Office Depot store.